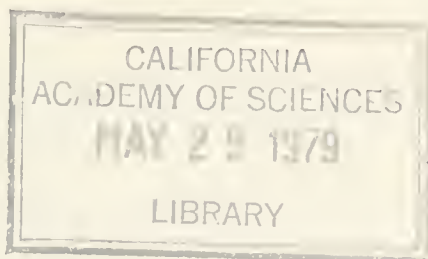


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the gull

Vol. 61

Berkeley, Calif.

June 1979

Number 6

Annual Dinner on June 15

Don't forget the GGAS Annual Dinner to be held at H's Lordships in Berkeley on Friday, June 15. Congressman Ronald V. Dellums will be our speaker and the program will be on the important Mono Lake issue.

Make your plans now to attend. Full details in the May *Gull*.

Field Trips Calendar

\$ indicates entrance fee required

Wednesday, June 13 — Mini trip to Redwood Regional Park. Meet at **8:30 a.m.** at the Claremont Hotel south parking lot off Ashby Ave. Spring and migrant birds. Lunch optional. Leader: Ruth Voss (525-8032).

Saturday / Sunday June 16 / 17 — Yuba Pass. See May *Gull* for details.

Sunday, June 24 — North slope of Mt. Tamalpais. This trip involves a 5-mile walk through a variety of habitats — marsh, meadow, woods and lakes. Meet at the parking lot in the center of the town of Fairfax. The caravan will leave there at **8 a.m.** Be prepared to carry your lunch and liquids. Leader: Pat Triggs (664-8502). (✓)

Saturday / Monday, June 30, July 1 / 2 — Sagehen Creek. Join us for high mountain birds, mammals and wildflowers on the east side of the Sierras. Meet daily at **8 a.m.** at the Sagehen Campground.

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On Saturday, we will take a leisurely 4-mile walk down toward Sagehen Creek. In the evening, we may observe small mammals and an active beaver colony. On our Sunday exploration of the upper Sagehen basin we will compare burned and unburned sections of the forest. For background reading see Book and Lynch 1970, "Breeding bird populations of burned and unburned conifer forest in the Sierra Nevada."

On Monday, we will decide whether to drive to Pyramid Lake for the White Pelican colony and desert reptiles or continue searching the Sagehen area for bird species we may have missed. The birds around Sagehen include Goshawk, Pygmy Owl, Calliope Hummingbird, White-headed and Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers, Williamson's Sapsucker, Dusky and Gray Flycatchers, Dipper and Townsend's Solitaire.

Wear comfortable walking shoes and pack lunch and liquids on the day of the hikes. Besides binoculars and camera, mosquito repellent, bathing suit and fishing rod are recommended as we will be on a trout stream.

From the Bay Area, take I-80 east to Truckee. At Hwy. 89 go north 8 miles until you see the Sierra County line sign on the right. Make a left on the dirt road by a green Forest Service garage 500 yards up the highway and proceed 1½ miles past the buildings of the University of California's research station to the Sagehen Campground (please do not stop here as the station is not open to the public). Other Forest Service campgrounds are located 1½ miles north and 2½ miles south of the Sagehen turnoff on Hwy. 98. Truckee has many motels. For additional information and a detailed map send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Dan Murphy (564-0074), 2945 Ulloa St., San Francisco, CA 94116 or write Roger Harris at Sagehen Creek Research Station, P.O. Box 939, Truckee, CA 95734.

Friday / Sunday, July 6-8 — Lassen Volcanic National Park. Join the Murphy family for a weekend of birding and hiking at Lassen. The more serious birders will meet each morning by the store at the Manzanita Lake Campground at **6:15 a.m.** We will spend 2-3 hours birding the lake and nearby area. On **Saturday** we meet at **10 a.m.** at the store to caravan north from the Park to bird as far as Burney Falls. We'll stop for dinner at a local restaurant. Those not interested in birding can bring fishing gear as we will spend a good portion of the day at Baum Lake. On **Friday** and **Sunday** we will meet at **10:30 a.m.** at the store for a hike through some of Lassen's beautiful back country.

These hikes will be about 3 miles in length and leisurely paced. In past years we have seen Willow, Hammond's and Dusky Flycatcher, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, Black Swift, Bald Eagle and most common mountain species. Some of the higher mountain trails should be open by July so we should see a nice display of wildflowers.

Wear sturdy shoes and pack a lunch and water. Suntan lotion, a hat, mosquito repellent and warm clothing for cold nights may also be needed.

From the Bay Area drive north on I-5 to its junction with Hwy. 44 in Redding. Go east on Hwy. 44 to the northwest entrance of Lassen Volcanic National Park. Camping facilities are available at Manzanita Lake. Lodging is available north of the park at Hat Creek (about 15 miles) and at Burney (about 35 miles). For details write to Lassen Volcanic National Park, Mineral, CA 96063. All activities will begin at the store in the Manzanita Lake Campground. Be sure to check the Park bulletin boards for further details and changes in the field trip schedule. Leaders: Dan and Joan Murphy (564-0074). \$ (✓)

FIELD TRIP PARTICIPANTS: During the current gas crisis please contact trip leaders or GGAS to ascertain whether the trip, especially one of any distance, will be cancelled.

Carpooling: You can arrange carpooling for trips marked (✓). If you do not want to drive or want a passenger or two to share expenses, please call Kate Partridge at work (642-2881, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.) or at home (548-0779 before 9:30 p.m.). Passengers should be willing to share all expenses incident to the trips including mileage and any fees that may arise.

—FIELD TRIP COMMITTEE

April Observations - Through April 30

REMNANTS OF WINTER

Of the birds under this heading some deserve separate comments, but the others cited in previous months are merely listed with the date of last sighting: Tufted Duck at Mill Valley April 9, Harlequin Duck at Rodeo Cove/Lagoon April 9, Broad-winged Hawk at West Pittsburg March 31, **Black-headed Gull** at Stockton Sewage Ponds to first week of April, **Little Gull** at Stockton Sewage Ponds April 17 and two Sharp-tailed Sparrows at Pine Guleh Creek to the end of April (all *). Two other male Harlequin Ducks frequented the Farallones in late April, as did probably different Glaucous Gulls on March 3, 9, 21 and April 2 (all PRBO). The Black-and-white Warbler and adult male American Redstart that seem to be fixtures along the Pajaro River at the Watsonville Sewage Plant were both still present April 1 (EM, AM). More surprising were the resightings the same day of two warblers not seen there since Jan. 2, a MacGillivray's Warbler and a Northern Waterthrush (singing on April Fool's Day!) (both EM, AM). This site deserves attention of more birders, especially as it is conveniently on the

route to Monterey. San Francisco's **Great-tailed Grackle**, last reported April 9 (*), has stayed so long that doubts have been raised concerning the bird's wild origin. Few birds could be expected to act thus without being transported by man. However, the Great-tailed Grackle is common in urban parks within its expanding range and it seems to me plausible that a vagrant colonist flying up the Peninsula would stop on reaching the Golden Gate and inhabit San Francisco parks for many months. Perhaps time will clarify this problem.

SPRING APPEARANCES

The American Golden Plover at Pine Gulch Creek, Bolinas Lagoon, in late April was eclipsed by a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** there April 25 through at least April 29 (*). Few California records of this rarity have preceded mid-May. A **Little Gull** flew north past Pigeon Point April 19 (*), three days later than the one in 1977. On April 7 and 29 hummingbird feeders in Alamo hosted a (?) male Costa's Hummingbird and a male Black-chinned Hummingbird visited there April 26-27 (all JR). Both species are rare so close to the Bay. An **Eastern Phoebe** at Laguna Ranch, Point Reyes, April 3 (*) seems to be an early spring migrant. The Sage Thrasher on the Farallones April 19 (PRBO) was closer to its normal range but further out of habitat. A Townsend's Solitaire in Tilden Park April 24 (CG) was ten days earlier than last year's.

Observers: Clark Gleason, Akiko Makishima, Eugene Makishima, Robin May, Robert McNab, Point Reyes Bird Observatory (Farallon reports thanks to Phil Henderson), Jean Richmond. **fide* Northern California Rare Bird Alert.

—STEPHEN F. BAILEY, *Observations Editor*
Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California,
Berkeley, CA 94720

(phone 548-9507, or Karen Bailey at 642-3327 8 a.m.-noon, 1-5 p.m.)

Conservation Notes

“POCS” OIL DRILLING PLANS DRAW NEARER. The U.S. Interior Department's plans to lease areas off our coast to Big Oil Companies are moving right along. The draft environmental statement on the Pacific outer-continental shelf (POCS is the acronym) energy-exploration leases for the northern and central California coastline is now in preparation and due next April. The southern coastal area, from San Luis Obispo south, is one stage further along the so-called “notice of sale” period wherein each tract, an area of about 9 square miles of

ocean, will be leased. The regulations state that there must be economically recoverable amounts of oil or natural gas found there within a maximum exploratory period of 5 years or the lease is automatically revoked. Of the original total of 8.4 million acres nominated in both north and south, the government estimates drilling will occur in about 1½ million acres. Many areas were eliminated for environmental reasons but a huge oil slick drifting in high seas from a blow-out might not be aware of this.

The present north coast schedule calls for sales to begin in February, 1981. There are 30 proposed tracts off Humboldt County, 30 off Mendocino, 8 off Sonoma and a big 60 from San Mateo south to Santa Cruz. Details of the plan, maps and instructions for participating in the environmental draft statement are available at the GGAS office or can be obtained by calling (213) 688-7120, the BLM public affairs office in L.A.

BAJA WILDLIFE. The government of Mexico has declared all the islands in the Gulf of California to be nature reserves and migratory bird refuges. The new decree protects plants as well as animals. The islands provide habitat for marine mammals and such shorebirds as the Brown Pelican, Elegant and Royal Tern, and Heermann's gull, which nest there by the thousands.

RARE II SAGA LURCHES ON. The Forest Service has revealed plans to log portions of Wyoming's beautiful Teton range. The east front of the range is part of Grand Teton National Park, but the entire west slope is within the Targhee National Forest. The area proposed for logging is home to many wildlife species, including elk, lynx, grizzly bear, wolverine and Sandhill Crane.

This is a critically important wildlife corridor directly between Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks, and an ideal choice for wilderness designation, but the F.S. bureaucrats seem to see board feet wherever they look. Remember, in the words of the late bear, Smokey, national forests belong to all the American people.

SAVE THE CONDOR PLAN SEEKS APPROVAL. The emergency plan to save the California condor has been approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Funding requests are now before both houses of Congress. The plan would establish breeding populations of captured birds that would later be reintroduced into the wild. Condor numbers are reportedly dwindling fast and the plan is a response to what many feel is imminent extinction for the largest North American raptor. National Audubon and the American Ornithologists Union fully support the recovery effort and are urging all local chapters and members to write their Washington delegations.

GGAS GOES TO HEARINGS IN SACRAMENTO ON APRIL 24 TO TESTIFY AGAINST TWO BILLS:

CALIFORNIA MOUNTAIN LION. A bill, SB 835, that would have reopened sport hunting of the mountain lion in the name of predator control was *withdrawn* in committee. Los Angeles County Senator H.L. Richardson, big-game stalker and Republican, withdrew SB835 in the Senate Natural Resources and Wildlife Committee, of which he is a member, in face of overwhelming opposition. The bill can still be reintroduced within the next two years, however.

CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP. Two other Richardson bills were introduced in the same committee. One, SB33, would reclassify the Nelson Bighorn from fully protected to game mammal (Sierra and Peninsula Bighorn would remain fully protected), permitting sport hunting under Fish and Game Commission regulations and calling for a \$500 hunting permit.

The other, SB834, would require that the Department of Fish and Game conduct research on California Bighorns and encourage *utilization* (in other words, hunting); however, in a compromise with conservationists, the bill was amended to delete "utilization."

SB834 passed out of committee without opposition, but SB833 was given a good fight and successfully defeated because it lacked a majority of 5 to pass it out of committee (the vote was 4 pro, 2 against, 1 absence).

BIRD RESCUE NEEDS HANDS. International Bird Rescue of Berkeley, which does such good work with sick and injured birds, is in need of volunteers — no experience necessary. IBR works mostly with seabirds, having originated when the big oil spill of 1971 created a Bay Area wildlife crisis. IBR is located in Aquatic Park. The phone number is 841-9086.

GOLDEN GATE PARK MASTER PLAN OUT. The plan for Golden Gate Park has now been published. It is a fairly general outline of objectives and policies for the park and is available from McLaren Lodge, GGP, San Francisco 94117; send 40¢ in stamps. Recommendations still call for replacing roads in the western part of the park with grass and trees so the document hasn't been too compromised by special interest pressure. But can they ever replace the buffalo? It makes very interesting reading, so send for your copy today.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE. The Conservation Committee is expanding its membership. If you are interested in any facet of conservation and would like to serve on the committee, contact the GGAS office at 843-2222.

—CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

LEGISLATIVE ADDRESSES:

U.S. Senate, Washington D.C. 20510

U.S. House of Representatives, Washington D.C. 20515

California State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814

Summer Birding Classes at Albany

This summer GGAS will be offering two classes in Field Ornithology through the Albany Adult School. A class primarily for beginners starts Tuesday evening, June 19. We will discuss the basic characteristics of wild birds and present a survey of the different birds which nest in the various ecological communities around the Bay Area. Optional field trips are planned to various habitats around the area to study birds in the wild.

A class for intermediate or advanced birders will begin Thursday evening, June 21. We will deal with the most common mistakes birders make in field identification. We go beyond the field guides and propose ways to improve field skills. Identification errors caused by psychological factors as well as inadequate or out-of-date treatment in the field guides will be discussed. Optional field trips may be arranged.

Each class lasts for six weeks and there is a tuition fee of \$10 for each program. Classes run for two hours from 7 to 9 p.m. Field trips will be offered on alternate Saturdays and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. There will be an additional fee of \$9 by arrangement with the instructor for those who wish to participate in a series of three field trips.

The instructor will be Joe Morlan, compiler of our Rare Bird Alert and co-author of the forthcoming "*Birds of Northern California*" (in press).

For more information, contact the Albany Adult School at 526-6811.

Mono Lake Committee Deserves Your Support

The Mono Lake Committee is working tirelessly to save the lake which is being desecrated by the unrestricted diversion of water from its tributary streams to the City of Los Angeles.

They seek a compromise between water consumption and environmental protection. Because of their efforts some legislation is now pending — on April 18 a bill introduced by Assemblyman Norman Waters (D - Lodi) that would restore the water level of the lake to its 1970 level passed the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee.

Much more work needs to be done if Mono Lake is to be saved and GGAS urges your support of these efforts. Send a tax deductible donation *now* to the Mono Lake Committee, P.O. Box 2764, Oakland, CA 94602.

Mono Lake Ecology Seminars

Field courses are being offered this summer which will offer intimate four-day introductions to the natural history of the diverse Mono Lake-Tioga Pass region. Field trips are interspersed with informal lectures and evening campfire discussions. The courses convene at noon on Friday and disband at noon the following Monday. Fees charged for the courses do not include meals or lodging. Participants are urged to car camp as a group; alternately, motel accommodations are available. Additional information is furnished upon enrollment. The classes are limited in size so prompt enrollment is urged.

The instructors, David Gaines, David Winkler and John Harris, blend thorough knowledge of natural history with contagious enthusiasm for all things wild. Harris and Winkler are conducting Ph.D. research in the Mono Basin — Harris on the small mammals which dwell on Mono's shores, Winkler on the lake's nesting gulls. Gaines, a part-time teacher and full-time student of natural history, has taught numerous courses for UC Extension and the Yosemite Natural History Association and is the author of *"Birds of the Yosemite Sierra."*

THE COURSES OFFERED:

"The Ecology of Mono Lake" with Winkler and Gaines. July 20-23 or September 7-10.. Cost: \$40.

"Natural History of the Mono Lake-Tioga Pass Region" with Winkler and Gaines. July 27-30 or September 14-17. Cost: \$30.

"Flowers, Shrubs and Trees of the Mono Lake-Tioga Pass Region" with Winkler and Gaines. July 13-16. Cost: \$30.

"Mammals of the Mono Lake-Tioga Pass Region" with Harris and Gaines. August 10-14. Cost: \$30.

"Birds of the Mono Lake-Tioga Pass Region" with Gaines. August 17-20. Cost: \$30.

"The Ecology of Bird Migration" with Winkler and Gaines. August 31-September 3. Cost: \$40.

Make checks payable to Altacal Audubon Society and mail to Stephen Laymon, 3290 Ackley Rd., CA 94543 (707-263-6710).

Last Chance for GGAS Tours

There is still space available on the following two tours;

Southeastern Arizona Birding Special, June 24-July 1. Call Mike Wihler at 664-6567 for information.

Africa. This trip has now been organized into three parts as follows:

Trip 1: Madagascar/Kenya/Seychelles/Tanzania (Selous) July 11 - August 11, 1979.

Trip 2: Kenya/Seychelles/Tanzania (Selous) July 19 - August 11, 1979.

Trip 3: Kenya/Sechelles July 19 - August 6, 1979.

These trips may be taken in part or all together, whichever best suits your interests, time or cost limits. We believe that this is an unusual trip in the way we have arranged it. It may not be possible to repeat this trip in the future, so if you have been thinking of a trip to Africa now is the time to go with us. The leaders will be Don Turner, noted authority on African birds and wildlife and Mike Wihler, past leader of GGAS field trips.

Space will be limited on the Madagascar trip to 5 persons. The other portions of the trip will have a maximum of fifteen. After August 11, there will be an optional extension of one week to the areas of Lake Manyara, Serengeti, Ngorongoro, etc., in northern Tanzania, for those wishing to see even more of this fascinating country.

For more information and prices, call Forum Travel at 843-8294.

—EXTENDED FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

Fall Pelagic Trips

Boat trips leaving from Monterey Harbor to view birds and marine mammals are scheduled for Friday, September 28, and Sunday, September 30. Past trips have produced sightings of albatross, shearwaters, petrels, jaegers, alcaids, dolphins, whales and other species of bird and marine mammals not usually seen from land.

Reservations may be made by sending \$16 per person to Golden Gate Audubon Society, 2718 Telegraph Ave., #206, Berkeley, CA 94705. Make checks payable to GGAS and enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. Details on when and where to meet will be mailed with confirmation notices.

For more information call the GGAS office at 843-2222.

In Case GGAS Is Sold Out...

Monterey Bay Pelagic Excursions, a nonprofit organization, schedule trips from Monterey Harbor, including one led by Alan Baldridge on Sunday, June 17. The cost is \$16 per person. Reservations (make check payable to Debi Love) and information on other trips offered may be had by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to Debi Love, 935 Lighthouse Ave., #2, Pacific Grove, CA 93950.

Point Reyes Field Seminars

The Point Reyes Field Seminars program begins June 2 with a two-day session on predatory birds led by Diane Williams. By visiting various sites on the Pt. Reyes peninsula a variety of raptors will be seen, probably some of them feeding and rearing for young. This seminar will be repeated September 15-16 at a time when hawks are migrating south. There is a \$30 fee.

On June 9-10 Bob Stewart of the Pt. Reyes Observatory will conduct a seminar on breeding birds and their habitats. Field trips are scheduled to various habitats to identify and study the behavior and nest location of the great variety of birds of the peninsula. There is a \$31 fee.

Fees include dormitory accommodations. For complete information write Pt. Reyes Field Seminars, Pt. Reyes Station, CA 94956 or call (415) 663-1200.

PRBO BIRDATHON SCHEDULED

Last year's Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory's Birdathon was so successful that another has been scheduled for Saturday, September 29. Start lining up your sponsors now and plan to participate in an event that is fun as well as helpful to PRBO. Anyone who pledges before June 15 (no money necessary) will be eligible to win a 20X Bushnell Space-master scope and tripod. For full details write PRBO, 4990 Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach, CA 94970.

PEREGRINE SYMPOSIUM PROCEEDING AVAILABLE

The proceedings of the National Audubon Society symposium held in Oakland in October, 1977, on the current status of the Peregrine Falcon populations in North America can be ordered by mail for \$4.95 (includes tax and shipping). Address orders and make checks payable to National Audubon Society, Western Education Center, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd., Tiburon, CA 94920.

"DOLPHIN" PREMIERS JUNE 26

The feature length film, "Dolphin," the story of human-dolphin interaction in the wild, will premier Tuesday, June 26, at the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco.

The film, the product of two Bay Area film makers, Michael Wiese and Hardy Jones, is the story of the search of a group of people for contact with dolphins in the open sea. Contact was eventually made using music, including a specially designed underwater piano.

After a six-day showcasing of the film in San Francisco, it will then be shown in Bay Area theatres before beginning national showings. For information call Hardy Jones, 332-5410.

IN PURSUIT OF DRAKE

To commemorate the quadcentennial landing of Sir Francis Drake in the Bay Area, renowned naturalist/historian Margot Patterson-Doss will give a program entitled "In Pursuit of Drake", accompanied by slides and maps of her voyage aboard the Delta cargo liner "Santa Mariana" which traced Drake's journey throughout the New World.

The event, sponsored by the San Francisco Bay Chapter of The Oceanic Society, is scheduled for Wednesday, June 6, 8 p.m. in Room 3H, Building 312, Fort Mason, San Francisco. It is free and open to the public.

Ingrid Lustig Is Named Executive Director

The new face at the GGAS office is Ingrid Lustig who has been hired as Executive Director replacing Vera Paraschak.

Ingrid comes to us with a wide background in conservation and wildlife organizations. She has worked with the wolf program (North American Predatory Animal Center) at Doyle, California, the Predator Education Center in Seattle, Greenpeace and Oceanic Societies in various capacities. She is currently chairperson of Monitor West, a California conservation coalition which meets monthly to coordinate legislative action.

With her experience and knowledge, Ingrid seems the perfect choice for this position at GGAS. Drop by the office and welcome her in person — you will enjoy meeting each other.

VOLUNTEER OFFICE ASSISTANTS SOUGHT

Do you have spare time this summer and would you like to help a non-profit organization? We have just the answer! GGAS is now organizing a volunteer staff, and we are looking for persons willing to help with the various and sundry responsibilities necessary to the running of the GGAS office.

We would like a commitment of at least a few hours a week so that certain responsibilities can be delegated, if so desired. If you are interested, please contact Ingrid Lustig at 843-2222. Thank you!

GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

For Audubon Canyon Ranch

In memory of

Allen Burkhardt

Robert C. Clement

Jean Loeffel

Gift of

Barbara Goodhart

Mrs. William Davidow and Family

Betty Goodrich

For GGAS

In memory of

Joachim R. Hundt

Sandra Gamble

Jack and Caroline Service

Bob Danielson and Les Baronian

Building Industry Assn.

Memorial and honorary gifts and bequests will be used as specified by the donors. Acknowledgement will be made in *The Gull* and personally by the Corresponding Secretary, Minnie Groshong. Please send checks made out to the Golden Gate Audubon Society to: Corresponding Secretary, GGAS, 2718 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley, California 94705. All gifts are tax deductible.



Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.

Office: 843-2222

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Berkeley, California 94705

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THE GULL

June 1979

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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RARE BIRD ALERT (recorded) 843-2211

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Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to the GGAS office.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post Office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$18 per year (individual); \$21 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$4 per year; single issues 40¢. High school and college student membership \$13.50 per year. Senior citizen individual, \$13.50, senior citizen family, \$15.50.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

***The Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.**